

# The Environmental Impact Statement

## *A Requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act*



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures that environmental conditions will be created and maintained for people and nature to exist in harmony while fulfilling social and economic requirements. EISs are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which was enacted in 1969.

NEPA applies to federal agencies to ensure that their actions will not significantly impact the environment. Federal agencies must: 1) perform an environmental review process; 2) involve the public; and 3) make decisions based on an understanding of environmental consequences. NEPA does not provide environmental standards or permit requirements, it activates other environmental legislation such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Historical Preservation Act.

### **An EIS details the following issues:**

- ~ Purpose and need for the action
- ~ What the proposed action is
- ~ Feasible alternatives to the proposed action
- ~ The existing environment
- ~ The context, duration, and intensity of potential impacts to the existing environment from the proposed action and each alternative
- ~ Ways to mitigate or lessen adverse impacts

### **Responsibilities Under NEPA**

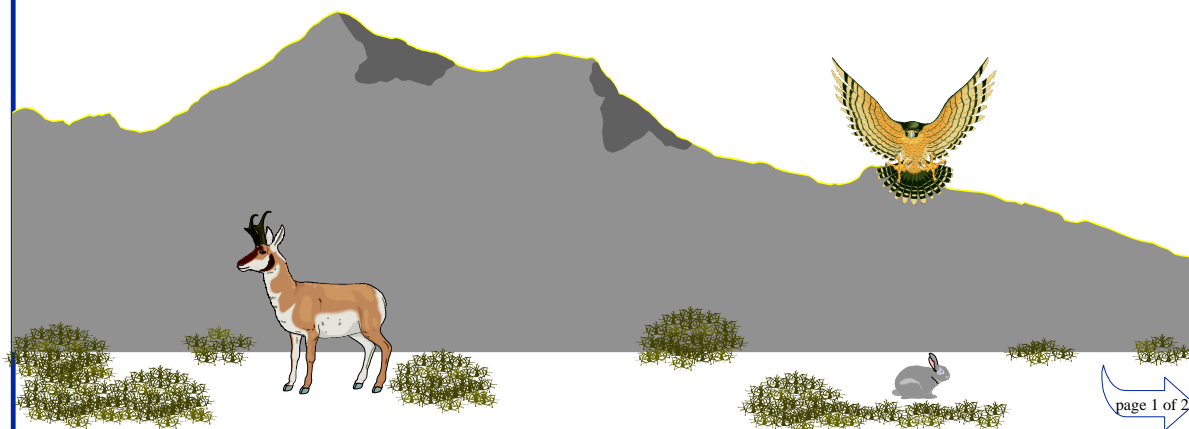
Federal installations, such as U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, are required to integrate NEPA at the earliest possible time to ensure that their planning decisions follow environmental requirements. If it is determined that a planning decision will or may result in environmental impacts, an environmental review is required, such as an environmental assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EA is prepared to determine the extent of environmental impacts in a proposed action and to decide whether or not those impacts are significant. If the EA shows that the proposed action may result in significant impacts, then an EIS is prepared. For certain proposed actions, where it is more certain that the proposed action will result in significant impacts, an EIS is prepared without an EA.

### **Environmental Impact Statement**

The EIS identifies and assesses reasonable alternatives to a federal proposed action that has the potential to significantly adversely affect the environment. An EIS does not make decisions, it provides information officials use when making decisions. It may take several years to research EIS issues and finalize a decision. The EIS process involves input from affected government groups and the public.

# FACT SHEET

Environmental Impact Statement for Activities Associated with Future Programs



# Environmental Impact Statement Fact Sheet

## Environmental Impact Statement for Activities Associated with Future Programs



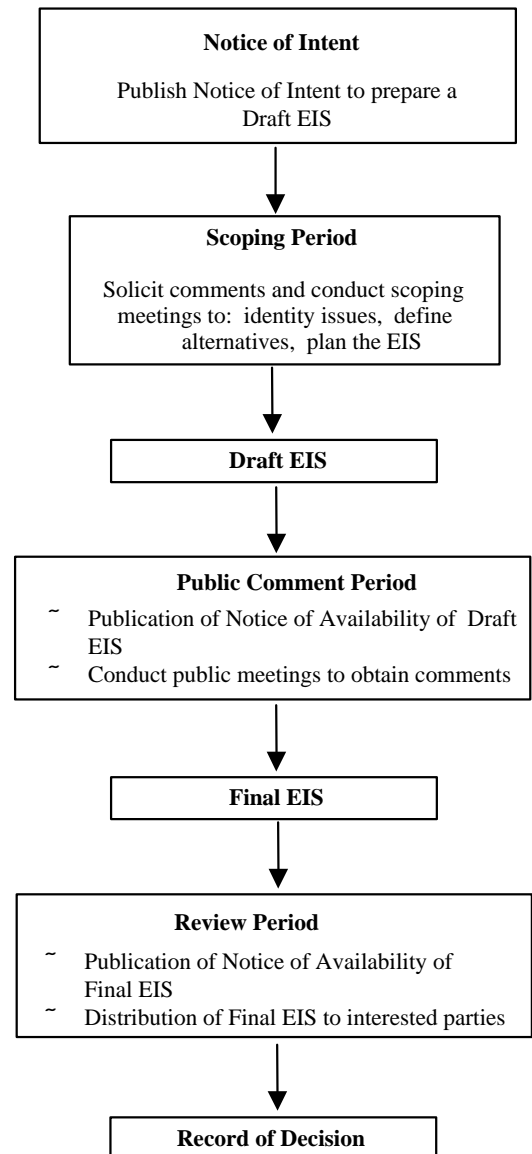
To begin the EIS process, an announcement of the federal agency's intent to prepare an EIS is published in a federal publication and local newspapers. This published announcement is called the Notice of Intent (NOI).

The NOI initiates the process to obtain comments and suggestions to develop and define the EIS from the public; tribal governments; and federal, state, and local agencies. This process, known as scoping, is conducted for a minimum of 30 days.

Following the scoping period, the Draft EIS is prepared incorporating the issues and alternatives identified during the scoping process. After a notice of availability is published the public has an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS for a minimum of 45 days. During this public comment period, public meetings are held to solicit formal comments.

Comments on the Draft EIS are addressed in the Final EIS. A notice of availability for the Final EIS begins a review period of at least 30 days. No sooner than 90 days after distributing the Draft EIS and 30 days after distributing the Final EIS, the agency decides on the proposed action. The final stage in the EIS process prior to implementing the proposed action is the record of decision (ROD). The ROD notifies the public of the decision made on the chosen action and the reasons for the decision. The ROD may also contain mitigation commitments for reducing or avoiding the chosen action's adverse environmental effects.

### EIS Process



To submit comments and/or receive notices of meetings, fact sheets, brochures, or information relevant to the EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs, please contact:

U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground  
EIS for Activities Associated with Future Programs  
c/o AGEISS Environmental, Inc.  
P.O. Box 463  
Dugway, UT 84022-5000  
(435) 831-3409  
nicholsn@dpg.army.mil